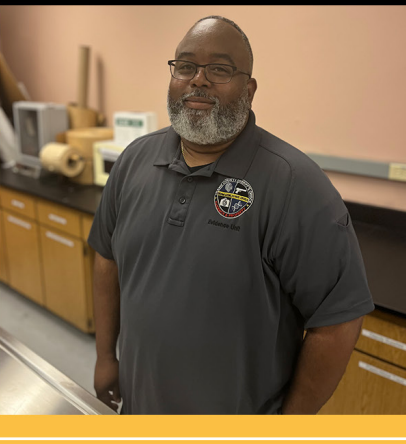




VOL 7: ISSUE 5



MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF HERNANDEZ

I'm pleased to share good news with you that will not only benefit your Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) but might benefit you personally. Earlier this month, TCSO approached the Commissioners Court seeking funding to make Corrections Officer salaries more competitive and more adequate for the rising cost of living in the Austin metroplex. We also sought to extend funds for marketing to raise awareness about the career opportunities available at TCSO.

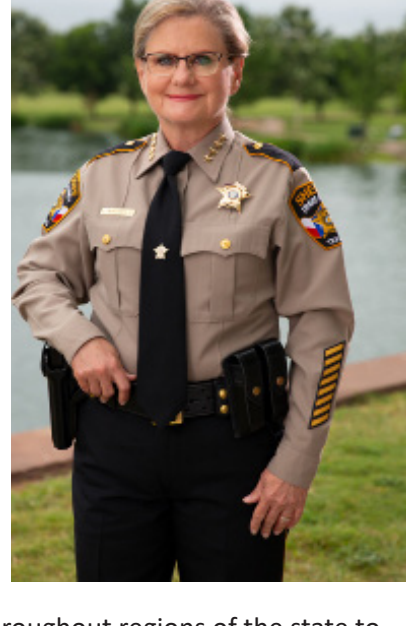
Commissioners not only acknowledged the need for higher wages but they also expressed their genuine concern for the quality of life of TCSO employees. The court voted unanimously to raise the wage of Corrections Officers by \$5,000 across the board. This not only means a higher wage for our current employees it also makes the entry level salary of a Corrections Officer higher than all surrounding counties and makes Travis County officers among the highest paid officers in the state.

The men and women working at your TCSO run the Travis County Jail and Correctional Complex at the highest standards. Their efforts are routinely showcased by the exceptional passing rate accomplished year after year when [Texas Commission on Jail Standards](#) audits the facilities. This is a great place to work and offers exceptional benefits that help young families. Travis County also

offers a pension that allows employees to generate wealth while earning a wage.

The court also unanimously voted to extend funding for marketing efforts aimed specifically at increasing the number of TCSO job applicants. They took it a step further, allowing a three-month pilot in which we will extend our marketing efforts throughout regions of the state to include the cities of Waco, Temple, El Paso, McAllen, Harlingen, and Laredo, to name a few.

Good things are happening when it comes to attracting men and women of integrity to join our workforce. Are you interested in a job that allows you to make a difference? Do you have a heart to help? A [career at TCSO](#) is more than something to do; it's something to be.



COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, TCSO joined [Community First! Village](#) (CFV) neighbors for a block party. Our Command Staff, East Patrol Division, Community Outreach Unit, Auto Theft Liaison, Victim Services Unit, Criminal Investigations Division, and Crisis Intervention Team shared information on our services and provided resource information. The best part was engaging in all the fun activities like cornhole and ping-pong - it was a great chance to connect and strengthen our relationship with the CFV community!



FENTANYL AWARENESS



Year/Months	2019	2020	2021	2022
Accidental Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths	22 (12%)	35 (14%)	118 (38%)	245 (59%)
Total Deaths by Overdose	178	245	308	417

May 9<sup>th</sup> marked National Fentanyl Awareness Day. This year, we're working with local nonprofit [Texas Against Fentanyl](#) (TxAf) to help spread awareness about the dangers of fentanyl.

Stefanie Turner and Carilu Bell of TxAf, both mothers to sons lost to an accidental fentanyl overdose, sat down with us to share their stories. They hope Tucker and Casey's tragic deaths can help parents understand just how dangerous counterfeit pills can be.

You can click on the icon below to view our fentanyl awareness campaign, listen to and read their stories as we continue to educate the public about fentanyl here in Travis County.



S.A.L.T. ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Earlier this month, TCSO joined the Austin Police Department for an ice cream social for seniors who participate in the Travis County Seniors and Law Enforcement together (SALT) program. The council was formed in 1996 as part of the national organization known as [TRIAD](#). It's a meaningful way to educate the senior community on crime prevention and discuss other related law enforcement interests. In addition to the monthly meetings, there are often fun activities, like this event, where we can all simply visit and have a good time!



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

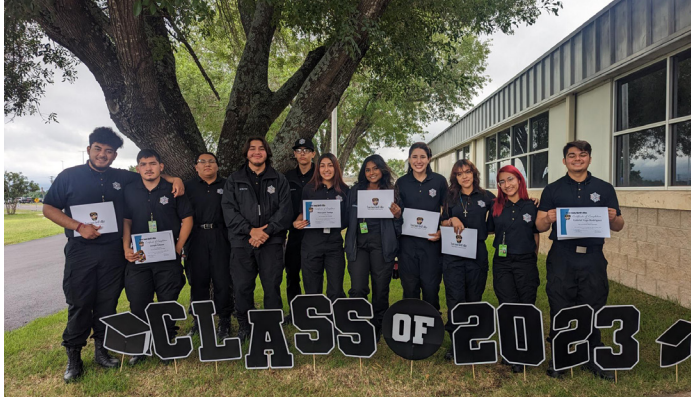


On May 6<sup>th</sup>, TCSO joined [Texas System of Care](#) at the Texas State Capitol to celebrate Children's Mental Health Acceptance Day. This year's theme, "Make A Beat for Children's Mental Health," is all about using the power of music to promote awareness and understanding of mental health issues among young people.

Sheriff Hernandez had the privilege of speaking to attendees on the importance of improving children's mental health in our community, in partnership with members of local mental health agencies.

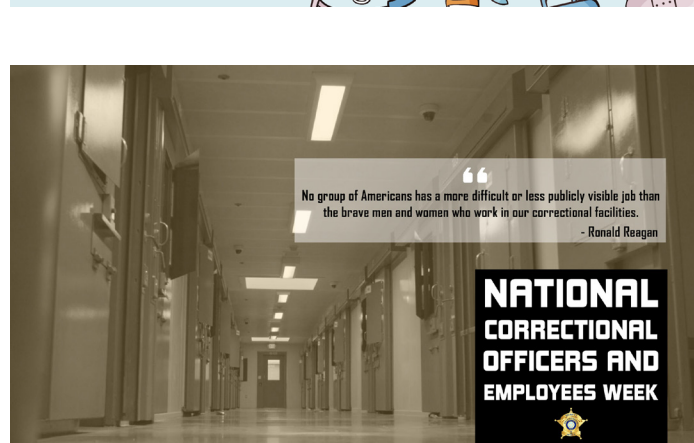
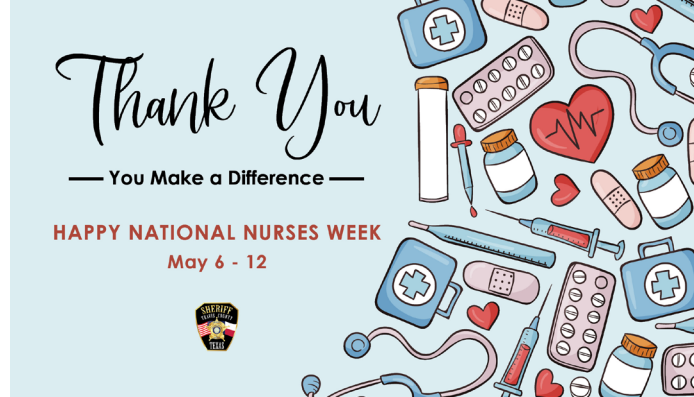


CORRECTIONAL INTERNSHIP



Over the years, TCSO has partnered with the [Akins H.S. Criminal Justice Program](#) through a Correctional Services Internship program, which consists of 24 visits from our specialized sections to include Facilities, Kitchen, Records, Correctional Tactical Unit, K9, Life Safety, and the Corrections Security Threat Unit. Additionally, the Akins H.S. cadets visit the Travis County Jail, Central Booking, and the Travis County Correctional Complex.

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the cadets graduated from the program. The partnership is an invaluable way for the cadets to learn about the correctional profession and hopefully join our team in the near future!



100 CLUB OF TEXAS AWARD



Early this month, TCSO Lake Patrol Deputies were honored by the [100 Club of Central Texas](#) for their life-saving efforts after an incident on Lake Travis in summer of 2022. Along with the help of the [Texas Parks and Wildlife Department](#) and [Travis County STAR Flight](#), these first responders received the call on a busy July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday out at Devil's Cove when a man swimming near his boat was struck by its propeller.

The victim suffered several severe lacerations across his chest, arm and head. First responders were able to pull the man out of the water, pack those wounds and transport him to safer ground where STAR Flight then flew him to the hospital, saving his life.

CITIZENS ACADEMY GRADUATION



TCSO hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> Citizens' Academy from March 2 - May 25. This 12-week academy provides citizens valuable insights on the criminal justice process and the hows and whys of TCSO operations and the academy offers will further our efforts in improving community relations and the quality of life for Travis County residents. We congratulate the following students for graduating on May 25<sup>th</sup>: Dustin Brian, Thomas Jarlock, Suman Latha Katta, Rolla McCrary, Joyce Najera, Karen Ranus, and Frank Velasquez.



VICTIM SERVICES VOLUNTEERS



On May 6<sup>th</sup>, TCSO Command Staff joined our Victim Services Unit (VSU) for the graduation of our newest class of volunteers who have completed training. We are so grateful for our dedicated, caring volunteers. With their help, our wonderful VSU can offer victims comfort, resources, and the connection to services they need during what can be difficult times in their lives.

Congratulations to the following graduates: Eleanor Allain, Deborah Anderson, Mackenzie Bunner, David Giraldo, Sandra Hart, Julie London, Iris Reyes-O'Brien, and Sherry Dumas.

To learn more about the VSU Volunteer Program, please click on the icon below.



TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION



This month, TCSO once again participated in the [Texas Jail Association's](#) (TJA) annual conference. Sheriff Hernandez and other officers enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate with other agencies through classes and breakout sessions. TCSO officers were also tapped to teach. This year was especially significant because TJA swore in TCSO Corrections Captain Edwardo Jackson as their president. We're so proud of his work encouraging best practices in the corrections field across the state. We know he'll be as strong an asset for their organization as he is for our agency. Congrats, Captain Jack!



We invite you to learn more about the variety of [careers at TCSO!](#)

SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP



TCSO's warehouse disposes significant amounts of shrink wrap due to the number of large quantity materials stored and processed each day. In fact, it's estimated that TCSO's Correctional Complex Food Inventory Section alone discards three to five 56-gallon bags of shrink wrap a week. [Travis County's Sustainability Team](#) worked out a way for that shrink wrap to be recycled. This solution will make a big difference for the better!